

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, WA**

To: All Providers
Managed Care Plans
Regional Administrators
CSO Administrators

Memorandum No.: 02-63 MAA
Issued: August 1, 2002

For further information, go to:
<http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/bhptransition>

From: Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration

Subject: Medical Assistance Transition to Basic Health

Beginning October 1, 2002, undocumented children and many non-citizens will no longer receive medical coverage from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Medical Assistance Administration (MAA). This memorandum pertains to fee-for-service clients only (clients who are not enrolled in MAA managed care programs).

What is happening?

The 2002 State Legislature eliminated state-funded medical programs that provide coverage to most non-citizens. Beginning October 1, 2002, undocumented children and many non-citizens will no longer receive medical coverage from MAA regardless of whether a client is in the middle of treatment (such as dental and orthodontic services) or that the treatment was prior authorized.

The Legislature increased the number of membership slots in Basic Health (BH) to offer medical coverage to those who will lose DSHS coverage. Clients who apply for medical coverage in Basic Health will be given highest priority for these additional enrollment slots. Basic Health began sending applications to these clients in early June. Refer to: <http://www.wa.gov/hca/basichealth/interested.htm> for further information on this transition and on enrolling with Basic Health.

Who is affected by this action?

Those affected fall into two groups:

1. Undocumented children; and
2. Legal immigrant families and children who have documents but are required to be in the United States for five years before they are eligible for Medical Assistance. These groups are: lawful permanent residents who don't meet veteran criteria, conditional entrants, domestic violence victims, and parolees.

To find out who is not affected by this legislation, refer to: <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/bhptransition>.

How do I identify clients who will no longer be covered?

It is easy to identify most children. Check their Medical ID Card for an “**F08**” in the upper right corner and “**Children’s Health**” identifier below the boxes on the lower right hand side.

It is not possible to identify immigrant adults or children **who have been in the United States less than five years** by looking at the client’s DSHS Medical ID Card. If you have access to a Medical Eligibility Verification (MEV) system, this population is coded as:

Program codes:	C, E, or H
Medical Eligibility code:	3

Providers who do not have access to an MEV system, call 1-800-562-6188.

Where can I find out further details regarding this transition?

MAA has created a web site to keep providers, clients, and the community current on the Medical Assistance-Basic Health Transition. This web site is frequently updated, so please check it often. **Go to:** <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/bhptransition>.

What can interested groups and organizations do to support this transition?

You are critical to ensuring these affected clients maintain their healthcare coverage!

- Let your clients know what is happening and ask them to look for information in the mail regarding this change in coverage. In early June, MAA sent out a letter, a community resource list, and Question & Answer sheet. Basic Health mailed clients a postcard and an application packet. There will be more mailings in July and August.
- Discuss the differences between Medical Assistance and Basic Health with your clients. Refer to <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/bhptransition> if you are unsure what the differences are.
- Assure them they may continue to use their DSHS medical ID card to get services **prior to October 1, 2002**.



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